



BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
First Supervisory District of Monroe County

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To: Federal Communications Commission

Re: CC Docket 02-6

From: John Poland
Director of Research and Development
Monroe 1 BOCES

Monroe 1 BOCES is a consortium of 18 school districts in New York State. Our component districts support the inclusion of dark fiber services in the list of e-rate eligible services. By leasing dark fiber from a service provider the schools are able to more cost effectively provision the required bandwidth required for Internet access, online databases, and distance learning. Our experience has been that the cost of dark fiber is vastly superior to traditional telecom data services at the high bandwidth rate required for adequately meeting the educational needs of students. By allowing e-rate aid for dark fiber services the FCC will enable schools to have more control and flexibility over their telecommunications services.